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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/581,021

02/21/2007

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EXAMINER

BENITEZ, JOSHUA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2829

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/24/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/581,021	Applicant(s) KIM ET AL.	
	Examiner Joshua Benitez	Art Unit 2829	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 May 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>05/26/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-6 of U. S. Application No. 10/581,021 filed on 06/07/2006 are presented for examination.

Priority

2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Korea on 11/29/2003. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the 10-2003-00859025 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b). Examiner points out that a Certified Copy of Foreign Priority of Application 20-2004-0026575 is currently in file, but such copy does not correspond to the instant U.S. Application.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 05/26/2006 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the probe extension means connected to the test equipment must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

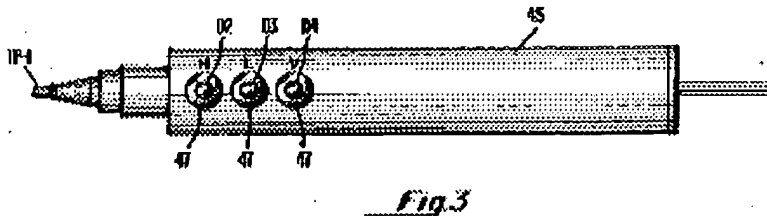
Claims 1 and 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shintaku et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,189,673).

In re claim 1, Shintaku '673 discloses in figures 1-3 a portable electric testing equipment (45) comprising:

- a probe (TP-1);
- ground contact means (43, fig. 2);
- a voltage input unit for receiving a voltage applied from said probe;
- a controller for applying a test voltage of a prescribed level to said voltage input unit (col. 2, lines 39-56); and
- outputting a control signal for indicating a ground (MIDRANGE) when a voltage level inputted from said voltage input unit is below zero level and for indicating a measurement stand-by state (OPEN, col. 3, lines 47-56) when the voltage level is a test voltage level and for indicating a detected voltage level (HIGH) when the voltage level is above a prescribed reference voltage (col. 2, lines 26-37); and



Fig.2



Regarding claim 3, Shintaku '673 discloses said display means comprises a plurality of light emitting elements (D2-D4), each being illuminated according to a detected voltage range (col. 2, lines 10-15).

With respect to claim 4, Shintaku '673 discloses said display means comprises a low voltage warning light emitting element (D4) for being illuminated when a voltage below said prescribed voltage is detected (col. 2, lines 24-25, 36-37).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

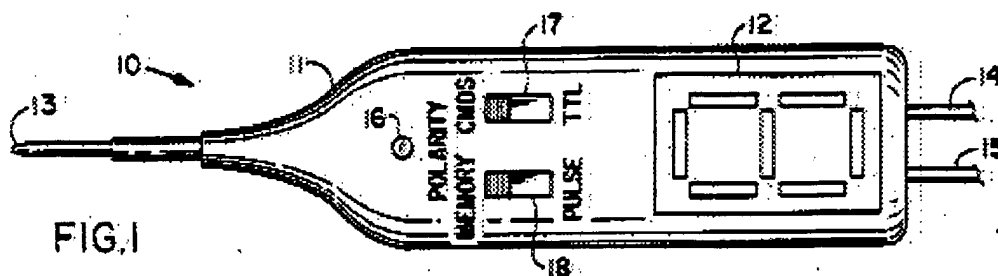
6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shintaku '673 in view of Cestaro et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,599,557).

Regarding claim 2, Shintaku '673 discloses the claimed invention except for the display means comprising a segment indicating unit.

However, Cestaro '557 does disclose in figure 1 a test probe having display means comprising a segment indicating unit (12).



It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the display means as taught by Shintaku et al with a segment indicating unit as taught by Cestaro et al in order to provide the test results in an unambiguous way so that the user is not required to interpret the significance of a series of lights being illuminated.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shintaku '673 in view of Ort et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,879,144).

With respect to claim 5, Shintaku '673 discloses the claimed invention except for a probe extension means having an attachable/detachable coupling unit, an extension cable, and an auxiliary probe connected to said extension cable.

However, Ort '144 does disclose in figure 1 a test system comprising probe extension means (20) having an attachable/detachable coupling unit (22), an extension

Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram of a linear actuator assembly. A rectangular block 20 is connected to a rod 21 via a pin 31 and a bush 23. The rod 21 passes through a bush 12 and a nut 14, ending in a piston 10. The assembly is shown in cross-section with dimensions XL, PL, and TL indicated.

FIG. 1

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shintaku '673 in view of Vinci et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,672,964).

As of claim 6, Shintaku '673 discloses the claimed invention except for an illuminating lamp for illuminating a place at the pointing direction of said probe.

However, Vinci '964 does disclose in figure 1 a portable electric testing equipment (10) comprising an illuminating lamp (34) for illuminating a place at the pointing direction of said probe.

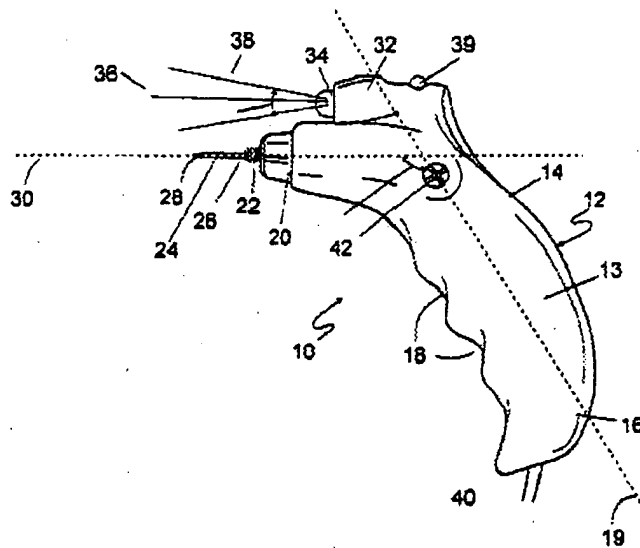


Fig.1

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the test equipment as taught by Shintaku et al with an illuminating lamp as taught by Vinci et al in order to illuminate the work area in the region of the probe test point (col. 2, lines 36-38, 45-51).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Steber et al (U.S. PGPub No. 2002-0135349) discloses an electrical testing device that provides an indication of a detected voltage range without need to operate any switches or other electrical actuators.

Becker et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,512,361) discloses an automotive tester including a housing with a probe tip at one end, a ground connector at the other end and a plurality of LEDs indicative of a detected voltage signal level.

Thrasher et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,952,820) discloses a voltage detector comprising an array of LEDs indicating an approximate level of voltage detected and an activation switch.

Reece et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,510,572) discloses the an analysis system comprising a probe having a conductive tip and indicator lamps.

Kochie et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,459,968) discloses a handheld electronic instrument for diagnosing the operating condition of a vehicle.

Mitchell et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,808,908) discloses a test instrument comprising an LCD display for displaying a measured voltage.

Koslar et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,527,118) discloses a testing device for indicating electric voltage, polarity and for continuity testing.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua Benitez whose telephone number is 571-270-1435. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, 7:30-5:00; F, 7:30-4:00 EST.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ha Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-1678. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Joshua Benítez
January 16, 2008


HA TRAN NGUYEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER